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09/457,732

12/10/1999

ANDREA CALIFANO

YO999-137

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11/13/2006

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EXAMINER

LAFORGIA, CHRISTIAN A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2131

DATE MAILED: 11/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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Technology Center 2100

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS  
AND INTERFERENCES**

Application Number: 09/457,732  
Filing Date: December 10, 1999  
Appellant(s): CALIFANO ET AL.

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John J. Dresch  
Reg. No. 46,672  
For Appellant

**EXAMINER'S ANSWER**

This is in response to the appeal brief filed 07 September 2006 appealing from the Office action mailed 07 March 2006.

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**(1) Real Party in Interest**

A statement identifying by name the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

**(2) Related Appeals and Interferences**

The examiner is not aware of any related appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

**(3) Status of Claims**

The statement of the status of claims contained in the brief is correct.

**(4) Status of Amendments After Final**

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

**(5) Summary of Claimed Subject Matter**

The summary of claimed subject matter contained in the brief is correct.

**(6) Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal**

The appellant's statement of the grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal is correct.

**NEW GROUND(S) OF REJECTION**

Claims 31- 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 9, 15, 17, 27, and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,446,210 to Borza, hereinafter Borza.

**(7) Claims Appendix**

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

**(8) Evidence Relied Upon**

6,446,210	BORZA	09-2002
6,487,662	KHARON et al.	11-2002

Menezes, Alfred et al. Handbook of Applied Cryptograph. 1997. CRC Press LLC. p. 321-375.

**(9) Grounds of Rejection**

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claims 1, 14-16, 31, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the disclosed invention is inoperative and therefore lacks utility. Claims 1, 14-16, 31, and 32 all generally relate to comparing two separate, imperfect samples of biometric data using a hash function to provide authentication. The Examiner holds that such a method could not work, as evident by the **Handbook of Applied Cryptography** to Menezes et al., hereinafter Menezes. Chapter 9 of Menezes discloses the properties of hash functions. On page 331, Menezes proceeds to state one of the properties of one-way hash functions being near-collision resistance. Near-collision resistance is the property that states that “it should be hard to find any two inputs  $x, x'$  such that  $h(x)$  and  $h(x')$  differ in only a small number of bits.” This is further supported by section **9.2.2 Basic properties and definitions**, on page 323 and 324.

Claims 31-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. On page 23 of the Specification, the Appellant describes a signal bearing medium as being a transmission medium, such as digital and analog and communication links and wireless. The Office's current position is that claims involving signals encoded with functional descriptive material do not fall within any of the categories of patentable subject

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matter set forth in 35 U.S.C. § 101, and such claims are therefore ineligible for patent protection.

*See* 1300 OG 142 (November 22, 2005) (in particular, see Annex IV(c)).

Claims 1, 5-8, 10-14, 16, 18-26, 28-32, and 34-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,446,210 to Borza, hereinafter Borza, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,487,662 to Kharon et al., hereinafter Kharon.

As per claims 1, 13, 14, 16, 18, 20, 24-26, 28, 30-32, 34, and 36, Borza teaches a method of processing semiotic data, comprising:

receiving semiotic data including a data set P (Figures 3 [block 80], 5, 7a, 7b, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15; column 2, line 52 to column 3, line 23; column 8, lines 4-28);

selecting a function h, and for at least one of each said data set P to be collected, computing h(P) (Figure 5; column 7, line 45 to column 8, line 3);

destroying said data set P (column 2, lines 27-29); and

storing h(P) in a database (Figures 7a, 7b, 12; column 12, lines 39-53);

obtaining a sample of P' such that a comparison can be made (Figures 3 [block 80], 5, 7a, 7b, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15; column 2, line 52 to column 3, line 23; column 8, lines 4-28);

at least one of obtaining and computing h(P') (Figure 5; column 7, line 45 to column 8, line 3); and

to determine whether P' is close to a predetermined subject, comparing h(P) to all available h(P)s to determine whether P' substantially matches, but does not exactly match, one of said data set P (Figures 12, 13, 16, 17; column 8, lines 28-38, column 14, lines 21-59, column 16, lines 31-37, column 16, lines 53-58, i.e. "when the value is within predetermined limits for an

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acceptable value, identification is provided....when the value falls outside the predetermined limits identification is not provided”);

wherein said data set P cannot be extracted from  $h(P)$  (column 8, lines 28-38);

wherein said semiotic data comprises biometric data (column 11, line 65 to column 12, line 18);

wherein said function  $h$  comprises a secure hash function (Figure 5; column 7, line 45 to column 8, line 3);

wherein the data set P is not determined perfectly by its reading (column 8, lines 28-38, column 14, lines 21-59, column 16, lines 61-37, column 16, lines 53-58)

wherein each reading gives a number  $P_i$ , wherein  $i$  is no less than 0, wherein  $P_0$  is for an initial reading, and a secret version of said initial reading is stored after further processing thereof (column 8, lines 28-48; column 11, lines 25-34; column 12, lines 25-61),

wherein reading  $P_0$  is different from  $P_i$  for  $i > 0$ , and the secret version of  $P_0$  is different from the secret version of  $P_i$ , such that no identification is possibly by a direct comparison of the encrypted data (Figures 7b, 9-11, 14, 18; column 13, lines 1-21, column 14, line 60 to column 15, line 63, column 16, line 58 to column 17, line 14),

each time a  $P_i$ , with  $i > 0$ , is read, computing all possible predetermined size variations of  $P_i$  which correspond to an acceptable predetermined imprecision of the reading (column 11, lines 25-34; column 12, lines 25-61); and

encrypting all such modified data, and comparing said encrypted modified data to data stored in said database (column 8, lines 28-48; column 12, lines 25-61),

wherein for a plurality of users of the same biometric information, said biometric information is encrypted differently for each user (column 4, lines 46-58; column 5, lines 42-55),

wherein at least one of said data set P and P' comprises a personal data set (column 12, lines 25-34).

Borza does not teach extracting sub-collections S<sub>j</sub> from the collection of data in data set P; and encrypting a predetermined number of such sub-collections such that at least one of the sub-collections is reproduced exactly with a predetermined probability.

Kharon teaches further comprising:

extracting sub-collections S<sub>j</sub> from the collection of data in data set P (Figure 6 [block 340]; column 13, lines 43-67); and

encrypting a predetermined number of such sub-collections such that at least one of the sub-collections is reproduced exactly with a predetermined probability (Figure 6 [block 347]; column 13, lines 43-67);

comparing encrypted versions of the sub-collections S<sub>j</sub> with those data stored in said database (Figure 6 [blocks 345, 347]; column 13, lines 43-67; column 14, lines 28-39; column 15, lines 42-55),

wherein if one or more of the sub-collection S<sub>j</sub> matches with said data, then verification is deemed to have occurred (Figure 6 [blocks 345, 347]; column 13, lines 43-67; column 14, lines 28-39; column 15, lines 42-55). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to sample a smaller section of the data set. One would be motivated to do because there is a better probability that a smaller area is less likely to change, therefore making it more difficult for someone to steal someone's identification.

As per claim 5, Borza teaches a method of processing semiotic data, comprising:

receiving semiotic data including a data set P (Figures 3 [block 80], 5, 7a, 7b, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15; column 2, line 52 to column 3, line 23; column 8, lines 4-28);

selecting a function h, and for at least one of each said data set P to be collected,

computing h(P) (Figure 5; column 7, line 45 to column 8, line 3);

destroying said data set P (column 2, lines 27-29); and

storing h(P) in a database (Figures 7a, 7b, 12; column 12, lines 39-53); and

wherein said data set P cannot be extracted from h(P) (column 8, lines 28-38);

the method further comprising:

selecting a private key/public key (K, k) once for all cases (column 4, lines 26-32); and

choosing said function h as the public encryption function corresponding to k (column 5, lines 28-54).

Borza does not teach destroying said private key K and sending said private key K to a trusted party. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to destroy the private key K and send it the private key K to a trusted third party, since it is known in the art that the private key is needed to decrypt any message encrypted with public key k, therefore the fewer entities that have access to private key K equals the fewer number of people that can access messages encrypted with public key k.

Regarding claim 6, Borza teaches wherein said data set P cannot be extracted from h(P), except by the trusted party (column 8, lines 28-38).



Regarding claim 7, Borza teaches to determine whether some  $P'$  is a predetermined subject, comparing said  $h(P)$  to all available  $h(P)$ s (column 12, lines 48-61); and determining whether there is a match (column 12, lines 48-61).

Regarding claim 8, Borza does not teach wherein the trusted party comprises a panel of members, and wherein a secret is shared among the members so that only at least a predetermined number of panel members can reconstitute the secret in its entirety by putting together their share of the secret. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the trusted party to comprise of a panel of members, and share a secret is amongst the members so that only at least a predetermined number of panel members can reconstitute the secret in its entirety by putting together their share of the secret, since it has been held that mere duplication of essential elements (e.g. trusted third party) involves only routine skill in the art. *St. Regis Paper Co. v. Bemis Co.*, 193 USPQ 8. See also MPEP § 2144.04.

Regarding claim 10, Borza does not teach extracting sub-collections  $S_j$  from the collection of data in data set  $P$ ; and encrypting a predetermined number of such sub-collections such that at least one of the sub-collections is reproduced exactly with a predetermined probability.

Kharon teaches extracting sub-collections  $S_j$  from the collection of data in data set  $P$  (Figure 6 [block 340]; column 13, lines 43-67); and

encrypting a predetermined number of such sub-collections such that at least one of the sub-collections is reproduced exactly with a predetermined probability (Figure 6 [block 347]; column 13, lines 43-67). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to sample a smaller section of the data set. One would be motivated to do because there is a better probability that a smaller area is less likely to change, therefore making it more difficult for someone to steal someone's identification.

With regards to claims 11 and 21, Borza does not teach comparing encrypted versions of the sub-collections  $S_j$  with those data stored in said database, wherein if one or more of the sub-collection  $S_j$  matches with said data, then verification is deemed to have occurred.

Kharon teaches comparing encrypted versions of the sub-collections  $S_j$  with those data stored in said database (Figure 6 [blocks 345, 347]; column 13, lines 43-67; column 14, lines 28-39; column 15, lines 42-55),

wherein if one or more of the sub-collection  $S_j$  matches with said data, then verification is deemed to have occurred (Figure 6 [blocks 345, 347]; column 13, lines 43-67; column 14, lines 28-39; column 15, lines 42-55). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to sample a smaller section of the data set. One would be motivated to do because there is a better probability that a smaller area is less likely to change, therefore making it more difficult for someone to steal someone's identification.

Concerning claims 12 and 23, Borza teaches each time a  $P_i$ , with  $i > 0$ , is read, computing all possible predetermined size variations of  $P_i$  which correspond to an acceptable predetermined imprecision of the reading (column 11, lines 25-34; column 12, lines 25-61); and

encrypting all such modified data, and comparing said encrypted modified data to data stored in said database (column 8, lines 28-48; column 12, lines 25-61).

As per claims 19, 29, and 35, Borza teaches a method of extracting components of biometric data which are stable under measurement errors, comprising:

acquiring unencrypted biometric data including at least one data set P (Figure 3 [block 80]; column 8, lines 4-28);

encrypting each said at least one data set acquired to form at least one encrypted data set (Figure 3 [block 73]; column 5, lines 42-54; column 8, lines 28-38);

destroying the unencrypted data set P (column 2, lines 27-29); and

storing each said at least one encrypted data set in a database (Figures 7a, 7b, 12; column 8, lines 28-48; column 12, lines 39-53),

wherein unencrypted biometric data is not available nor retrievable from said data stored in said database (column 8, lines 28-38).

Borza does not teach extracting sub-collections  $S_j$  from the collection of data in data set P; and encrypting a predetermined number of such sub-collections such that at least one of the sub-collections is reproduced exactly with a predetermined probability.

Kharon teaches further comprising:

extracting sub-collections  $S_j$  from the collection of data in data set P (Figure 6 [block 340]; column 13, lines 43-67); and

encrypting a predetermined number of such sub-collections such that at least one of the sub-collections is reproduced exactly with a predetermined probability (Figure 6 [block 347];

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column 13, lines 43-67). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to sample a smaller section of the data set. One would be motivated to do because there is a better probability that a smaller area is less likely to change, therefore making it more difficult for someone to steal someone's identification.

Regarding claim 22, Borza teaches wherein the data set P is not determined perfectly by its reading, such that each reading gives a number  $P_i$ ,

wherein  $i$  is no less than 0 (column 11, line 65 to column 12, line 34),

wherein  $P_0$  is for an initial reading, and a secret version of said initial reading is stored after further processing thereof (column 11, line 65 to column 12, line 34),

wherein reading  $P_0$  is different from  $P_i$  for  $i > 0$ , and the secret version of  $P_0$  is different from the secret version of  $P_i$ , such that no identification is possible by a direct comparison of the encrypted data (column 11, line 65 to column 12, line 34).

Claims 9, 15, 17, 27, and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,446,210 to Borza, hereinafter Borza.

As per claim 9, Borza teaches a method of processing semiotic data, comprising:

receiving semiotic data including a data set P (Figures 3 [block 80], 5, 7a, 7b, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15; column 2, line 52 to column 3, line 23; column 8, lines 4-28);

selecting a function  $h$ , and for at least one of each said data set P to be collected, computing  $h(P)$  (Figure 5; column 7, line 45 to column 8, line 3);

destroying said data set P (column 2, lines 27-29); and

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storing  $h(P)$  in a database (Figures 7a, 7b, 12; column 12, lines 39-53); and  
wherein said data set  $P$  cannot be extracted from  $h(P)$  (column 8, lines 28-38);  
wherein the data set  $P$  is not determined perfectly by its reading (column 11, lines 25-34),  
wherein each reading gives a number  $P_i$ , wherein  $i$  is no less than 0, wherein  $P_0$  is for an  
initial reading, and a secret version of said initial reading is stored after further processing  
thereof (column 11, line 65 to column 12, line 34),

wherein reading  $P_0$  is different from  $P_i$  for  $i > 0$ , and the secret version of  $P_0$  is different  
from the secret version of  $P_i$ , such that no identification is possible by a direct comparison of the  
encrypted data (column 11, line 65 to column 12, line 34).

As per claims 15, 17, 27, and 33, Borza teaches a method of processing biometric data,  
comprising:

acquiring unencrypted biometric data including at least one data set  $P$  (Figure 3 [block  
80]; column 8, lines 4-28);

encrypting, with one of a secure hash function and an identity function, each said at least  
one data set acquired (Figure 3 [block 73]; column 5, lines 42-54; column 8, lines 28-38);

destroying the unencrypted data set  $P$  (column 2, lines 27-29);

storing each of the at least one encrypted data set in a database (Figures 7a, 7b, 12;  
column 8, lines 28-48; column 12, lines 39-53),

wherein unencrypted biometric data is not available nor retrievable from said data stored  
in said database (column 8, lines 28-38),

to determine whether a data set P' is a predetermined subject, comparing an encrypted data set of P' to the at least one encrypted data set stored in the database to determine whether there is a match (Figure 12; column 8, lines 28-38).

**(10) Response to Argument**

In response to the Appellant's position that the Examiner did not respond to or answer the substance of the Appellant's traversal, the Examiner disagrees. In response to a proper 35 U.S.C. 101 rejection, the burden shifts to the appellant to rebut the prima facie showing. The Appellant may rebut this rejection using any combination of the following: amendments to the claims, arguments or reasoning, or new evidence submitted in an affidavit or declaration under 37 CFR 1.132, or in a printed publication. In response to the requirement, the Appellant did not amend the claims, submit an affidavit or declaration, or a printed publication to rebut the Examiner's rejection. Instead the Appellant chose to argue by referring back to the specification of the instant application and arguing that the hashes produced are close. The Appellant is reminded that the features upon which appellant relies, such as the methods disclosed in the specification, are not recited in the rejected claims. Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). The Examiner has considered the specification, claims, and prior art before making the rejection and believes the asserted utility would be incredible to a person of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Rinehart*, 531 F.2d 1048, 1052, 189 USPQ 143, 147 (CCPA 1976).

The Appellant failed to properly address the Examiner's *prima facie* showing of the inoperability of the instant invention and the Examiner responded in the only method available at the time, and as such the rejection should be maintained.

In response to the Appellant's arguments that the Examiner is not considering the Appellant's actual argument or the actual disclosure of the invention, the Examiner disagrees. The Appellant agrees with the Examiner's position that a simple hash function would not work on page 26 of the Appeal Brief filed 07 September 2006. The Appellant refers to methods for circumventing the problems of comparing encrypted or hashed data samples but is reminded that the features upon which appellant relies are not recited in the rejected claims. Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). The Examiner would like to point out that the Appellant fails to define/redefine the term hash function to coincide with a particular method disclosed in the specification. Where appellant acts as his or her own lexicographer to specifically define a term of a claim contrary to its ordinary meaning, the written description must clearly redefine the claim term and set forth the uncommon definition so as to put one reasonably skilled in the art on notice that the appellant intended to so redefine that claim term. *Process Control Corp. v. HydReclaim Corp.*, 190 F.3d 1350, 1357, 52 USPQ2d 1029, 1033 (Fed. Cir. 1999). The Appellant has not elaborated in the claim language that the hash function is one of the disclosed methods on pages 17-20 of the specification. The Appellant fails to meet the requirements of redefining a term as set forth in the MPEP § 2106. In order to define/redefine a term, the Appellant must do so "with reasonable clarity, deliberateness, and precision" and must "set out his uncommon definition in some

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manner within the patent disclosure' so as to give one of ordinary skill in the art notice of the change" in meaning.

The Examiner has considered the claim language as a whole and in light of the specification, and has refrained from reading limitations from the specification into the claim language, especially giving the "hash function" its broadest reasonable interpretation. The Examiner does not disagree with the Appellant that the disclosure of the invention is operable, but the claim language as broadly interpreted by the Examiner provides for an inoperable invention and the rejection should be maintained.

In response to appellant's argument that the claimed invention provides a method and system for processing semiotic data that allows use of the data without being a threat to privacy and that prevents misuse of such data, without significantly altering the accuracy and sensitivity of the identification process, a recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim.

In response to appellant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of appellant's invention, it is noted that the features, such as how the comparison between the two data sets are compared, upon which appellant relies are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). The Appellant does not claim the structure that does the comparing between the two



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encrypted samples, but instead claims the method steps which the Examiner has shown to be taught by *Borza*.

In response to the Appellant's arguments that *Borza* does not determine whether  $h(P)$  is close to  $h(P')$ , the Examiner disagrees. *Borza* discloses at column 16, lines 19-38 discloses techniques for determining the identification of someone by acquiring a biometric sample and comparing it to the stored templates. If the sample acquired for authentication is within predetermined range of the template, identification is provided for, if it is outside that predetermined range, then the user is not authenticated. *Borza* teaches comparing encrypted samples to encrypted templates in column 8, lines 28-38. The Appellant is reminded of MPEP 2123, which states that patents are relevant as prior art for all they contain.

*Borza* discloses determining whether  $h(P)$  is close to  $h(P')$ , without having to be identical matches, when comparing encrypted samples to encrypted templates, and the rejection should be maintained.

In response to the Appellant's argument that *Kharon* does not disclose extracting multiple subsets of data. In column 14, lines 40-53 *Kharon* discloses the  $k^{\text{th}}$  minutia and groupings of minutia. *Kharon* also states at column 13, lines 63-67 that the data set is defined so that  $N$  represents the total number of minutia for the fingerprint.

*Kharon* discloses extracting multiple subsets from the data in disclosing multiple instances of the minutia, and the rejection should be upheld.

In response to the Appellant's argument that *Kharon* does not teaches comparing encrypted versions of the sub-collection with those stored in the database, the Examiner disagrees. As shown above, *Borza* provides a showing of comparing two encrypted data sets for

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authentication purposes. *Kharon* teaches at column 14, lines 1-9 of comparing the minutia data sets to that of a database for authenticating the fingerprint.

Therefore, the combination of references discloses comparing encrypted subsets of data against a database for verification and the rejection should be maintained.

In response to appellant's argument that the claimed invention using a smaller subset of data for verification would be less desirable since it is easy to forge the data and does not solve the problem of being able to compare two encrypted data sets, a recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim.

Appellant's arguments fail to comply with 37 CFR 1.111(b) because they amount to a general allegation that the claims define a patentable invention without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references.

In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies, such as extracting subsets of data and comparing encrypted subsets of data, are not recited in all of the rejected independent claims. Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations

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from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

**(11) Related Proceeding(s) Appendix**

No decision rendered by a court or the Board is identified by the examiner in the Related Appeals and Interferences section of this examiner's answer.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

This examiner's answer contains a new ground of rejection set forth in section (9) above. Accordingly, appellant must within **TWO MONTHS** from the date of this answer exercise one of the following two options to avoid *sua sponte* **dismissal of the appeal** as to the claims subject to the new ground of rejection:

(1) **Reopen prosecution.** Request that prosecution be reopened before the primary examiner by filing a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 with or without amendment, affidavit or other evidence. Any amendment, affidavit or other evidence must be relevant to the new grounds of rejection. A request that complies with 37 CFR 41.39(b)(1) will be entered and considered. Any request that prosecution be reopened will be treated as a request to withdraw the appeal.

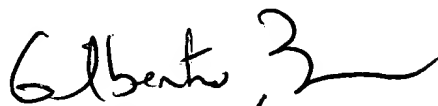
(2) **Maintain appeal.** Request that the appeal be maintained by filing a reply brief as set forth in 37 CFR 41.41. Such a reply brief must address each new ground of rejection as set forth in 37 CFR 41.37(c)(1)(vii) and should be in compliance with the other requirements of 37 CFR 41.37(c). If a reply brief filed pursuant to 37 CFR 41.39(b)(2) is accompanied by any amendment, affidavit or other evidence, it shall be treated as a request that prosecution be reopened before the primary examiner under 37 CFR 41.39(b)(1).

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Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) are not applicable to the TWO MONTH time period set forth above. See 37 CFR 1.136(b) for extensions of time to reply for patent applications and 37 CFR 1.550(c) for extensions of time to reply for ex parte reexamination proceedings.

Respectfully submitted,

Christian LaForgia  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 2131



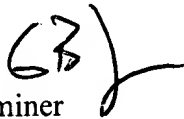
GILBERTO BARRON JR  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

**A Technology Center Director or designee must personally approve the new ground(s) of rejection set forth in section (9) above by signing below:**

James Dwyer  
Director  
Technology Center 2100

Conferees:

Gilberto Barron  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 2132



Matthew Smithers  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2137

